

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
FBIE-00 INSE-00 CA-01 SAA-01 VO-05 SES-03 /093 W
-----023376 311310Z /44

O 311218Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8919
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2267

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AG, MR, UN, SP, FR, SS, PDEV, PINR
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA: DESIRE BY FRONT POLISARIO TO EXPLAIN
THEIR POSITION DIRECTLY TO USG IN VIEW OF RAPIDLY
CHANGING POLITICAL SITUATION

1. ON JULY 30, 1978, MR. ALI MILOUD, A MID-LEVEL
POLISARIO FRONT OFFICIAL ATTACHED TO ALGIERS OFFICE,
CAME TO EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION TO DISCUSS VISA APPLI-
CATION FOR HAKIM ADEL, SDAR ("SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC ARAB
REPUBLIC") FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WANTS ATTEND UN COM-
MITTEE OF 24 MEETING IN SEPTEMBER.

2. DURING TALK WITH CONOFF, MILOUD STATED THAT POLISARIO
FRONT WOULD LIKE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH
AMBASSADOR HAYNES TO GIVE USG THEIR VIEWS ON CURRENT
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POLITICAL SITUATION IN MAGHREB FOLLOWING MAURITANIAN
COUP AND ITS EFFECT ON POSSIBLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.
MILOUD SAID THAT POLISARIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
OMAR MANSOUR OR MOKHTAR MALAININE WOULD MOST LIKELY BE
OFFICIALLY REPRESENTING POLISARIO IF AMBASSADOR (AND
WASHINGTON) AGREED TO SUCH A MEETING. MILOUD STRESSED
THAT POLITICAL SITUATION IS EVOLVING QUICKLY FOLLOWING

COUP AND THAT POLISARIO CONSIDERS SUCH A MEETING AN IMPORTANT WAY OF INFORMING USG ABOUT EVENTS. COMMENT: THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME THAT POLISARIO HAS REQUESTED MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR. ON ALL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, POLISARIO WAS TOLD THAT AMBASSADOR INDISPOSED THAT CONOFF AUTHORIZED TO HANDLE ANY VISA PROBLEMS THEY MIGHT HAVE. END COMMENT.

3. CONOFF TOLD MILOUD THAT AMBASSADOR PRESENTLY ON LEAVE IN TUNISIA (HE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO ALGIERS ON AUGUST 1). WHILE CONOFF COULD NOT PROVIDE RESPONSE, HE WOULD PASS ON REQUEST.

4. OF COURSE, THIS COULD BE JUST ANOTHER ATTEMPT BY POLISARIO TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHANGING SITUATION TO ESTABLISH DIRECT SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY AND POLISARIO MIGHT LATER PUBLICIZE SUCH A MEETING. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT EVENTS HAVE MOVED RAPIDLY AND DIRECT CONTACT COULD BE IMPORTANT MEANS OF GAINING FIRST-HAND INFO ON PROGRESS OF RUMORED ALGERIAN-POLISARIO-MAURITANIAN

TALKS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ALGERIAN AND POLISARIO CONDITIONS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

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5. AS RESULT MAURITANIAN COUP, MOREOVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE A CHANCE SOME TYPE OF SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. WISH TO POINT OUT ALSO THAT OTHER EMBASSIES IN ALGIERS, INCLUDING SOVIET, HAVE HAD REGULAR INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH POLISARIO FOR YEARS, DESPITE FACT THESE COUNTRIES HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED SDAR.

6. EMBASSY FEELS THAT INFORMAL CONTACT WITH POLISARIO REPS IS NOW WARRANTED. IF DEPT FEELS THAT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL CONTACT WITH POLISARIO INAPPROPRIATE, WE SUGGEST OTHERS, SUCH AS DCM OR POLOFF BEGIN UNOFFICIAL, INFORMAL CONTACTS. SUCH CONTACTS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MADE UNDER CAVEAT THAT TALKS ARE INFORMATIONAL ONLY AND THAT U.S. IS NOT INVOLVING ITSELF ACTIVELY ON WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE.

7. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING DIRECT MEETING WITH POLISARIO FRONT REPS AT THIS TIME. STEPHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ALGIER02267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780313-0012
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978071/aaaaaaqg.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 812fc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1842910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN SAHARA: DESIRE BY FRONT POLISARIO TO EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION DIRECTLY TO USG IN VIEW OF RAPIDLY CHANGING POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PDEV, PINR, AG, MR, SP, FR, SS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/812fc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014